In the Claims:

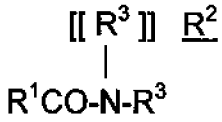
Please amend pending Claims 11-16, 18, 20, 21, 23-25, and 27-30, as shown in the Listing of Claims below, which is a complete listing of all Claims ever presented and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the Claims in the instant Application.

Listing of Claims

1-10. (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) A process for the production of a light-colored fatty acid alkanolamide polyalkylene glycol ether by the addition of an alkylene oxide ~~onto~~ to a fatty acid alkanolamide in the presence of an alkaline catalyst, said process further comprising (a) carrying out the addition of alkylene oxide at a temperature of 110 to 140°C in the presence of a reducing agent, and (b) treating the reaction product obtained in this way with steam under alkaline conditions.

12. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide has the formula (I):



(I),

where R^1CO is a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated acyl group containing 6 to 22 carbon atoms and 0 or 1 to 3 double bonds, R^2 is a hydroxyalkyl group containing 2 to 4 carbon atoms and R^3 is hydrogen or, independently, has the same meaning as R^2.

13. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide is ~~selected from~~ a condensation product of a member of the group consisting of caproic acid, caprylic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, stearic acid, isostearic acid, oleic acid, linoleic acid, linolenic acid, petroselic acid, elaeostearic acid, 12-hydroxystearic acid, ricinoleic acid, gadoleic acid, arachidonic acid, behenic acid, erucic acid, and technical mixtures of two or more thereof, with a

member of the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, monopropanolamine, ~~and~~ dipropanolamine, and mixtures of two or more thereof.

14. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide is ~~selected from~~ a condensation product of a member selected from the group consisting of coconut oil fatty acid, palm kernel oil fatty acid, palm oil fatty acid and tallow fatty acid, with a member of the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, monopropanolamine, ~~and~~ dipropanolamine, and mixtures of two or more thereof.

15. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide is selected from a condensation product of coconut oil fatty acid or of tallow fatty acid with monoethanolamine.

16. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from a group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide and mixtures of two or more thereof.

17. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide and the alkylene oxide are used in a molar ratio of 1:1 to 1:25.

18. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the alkaline catalyst is used in an amount of 0.1 to 5% by weight, based on the total weight of the starting materials.

19. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of sodium borohydride, hypophosphorous acid and alkali metal salts thereof.

20. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the reducing agent is used in an amount of 0.1 to 2.5%, by weight, based on the total weight of the starting materials.

21. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 11, wherein the addition of alkylene oxide is carried out at ~~temperatures of 80 to 150°C and~~ a pressure of 1 to 10 bar.

22. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 11, wherein the treatment with steam is carried out at a pH value of 9 to 12.

23. (Currently amended) A process for the production of a light-colored fatty acid alkanolamide polyalkylene glycol ether by the addition of an alkylene oxide ~~onto~~ to a fatty acid alkanolamide in the presence of one or more alkaline catalysts, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide is selected from the condensation products of one or more members of the group consisting of coconut oil fatty acid, palm kernel oil fatty acid, palm oil fatty acid and tallow fatty acid with a member of the group consisting of monoethanolamine, diethanolamine, monopropanolamine and dipropanolamine and mixtures of two or more thereof, said process further comprising (a) carrying out the addition of alkylene oxides at a temperature of 110 to 140°C in the presence of one or more reducing agents, and (b) treating the reaction products obtained in this way with steam under alkaline condition.

24. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide is selected from the condensation products of coconut oil fatty acids ~~or~~ and tallow fatty acids with monoethanolamine.

25. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the alkylene oxide is selected from a group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide and mixtures of two or more thereof.

26. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 23, wherein the fatty acid alkanolamide and the alkylene oxide are used in a molar ratio of 1:1 to 1:25.

27. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the alkaline catalyst is used in an amount of 0.1 to 5%, by weight, based on the total weight of the starting materials.

28. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the reducing agent is selected from a group consisting of sodium borohydride, hypophosphorous acid ~~or~~ and alkali metal salts thereof.

29. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the reducing agent is used in amount of 0.1 to 2.5%, by weight, based on the total weight of the starting materials.

30. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 23, wherein the treatment with steam in (b) is carried out at a pH value of 9 to 12.